

CITY UPDATE

Council Adopts Budget

The City Council adopted the 2007-2008 budget on December 12, 2006. Economic conditions continued to improve in 2005-2006, evidenced by increases in sales and utility tax revenues and development activity. While positive developments, the increases are occurring in some of the more volatile elements of the City's financial picture. Increased gasoline prices and utilities costs contributed to higher than planned inflation figures in mid-2006, reinforcing concerns related to the City's ability to keep pace with expenditure growth given statutory revenue limitations.

There is reason to be optimistic looking forward to 2007-2008. Based on the stronger revenue results in 2006 and the prospect of higher interest earnings on City reserves in 2007-2008, the City can make significant progress in replenishing reserves to target levels, consistent with the City's approach to prudent fiscal planning. In addition, the budget will make progress toward addressing the City Council's priorities of economic development, neighborhoods, housing, and environmental stewardship, while continuing to focus on the long-term challenges facing the City.

The City's 2007-2008 Budget totals \$318.3 million, a 7.8% increase from the 2005-2006 budget of \$295.2 million. Contributing factors include planned increases in the utility funds, the full

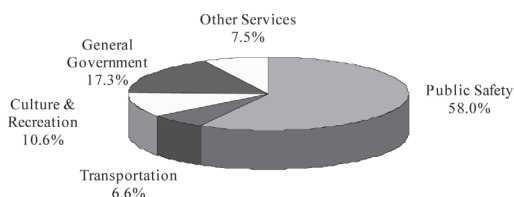


Photo by Rob Mullin

View of Lake Washington from the newly dedicated Heritage Park. The benches and viewfinder are a memorial, donated by the friends and family of Marjo Parikh. If you'd like to visit this peaceful location, it's the first view spot to the south, closest to Heritage Hall, along the rock wall path.

impact of the mid-biennium increase in public safety service levels using some of the banked property tax capacity available to the City, and planned increases in spending for capital improvements. The General Fund is the City's largest operating fund and accounts for public safety, development, parks and recreation, and other general government services. Its 2007-2008 Budget is \$107.8 million, a two-year increase of 13.27% over the previous two-year period. The majority of the expenditures in the General Fund are devoted to Public Safety (police, fire, building inspection, and municipal court services), with General Government (legislative, executive, land use planning, community development, legal, administrative, and financial services) being the next largest program area.

City of Kirkland: General Fund Budget by Service by Major Service



CONSERVATION TIP OF THE MONTH:

- Check your toilet for leaks annually. Place a few drops of food coloring in the tank of the toilet and wait 15 minutes (don't flush!). If the color seeps into the bowl, the toilet flapper is likely worn and leaking. Place the old flapper in a plastic bag and take it to the hardware store to purchase a replacement.



For a complete list of water saving suggestions, visit www.cascadewater.org.



Kirkland's downtown employee parking program has generated some interest of late, so we thought we'd explain how it works. This program is called Park Smart and it was started in 1998 at the request of downtown businesses. Its purpose is to free up parking spaces in the downtown core for customers. To achieve this objective, downtown employees who work within the designated Park Smart boundaries are not allowed to park downtown - this area is reserved for customers. Park Smart encourages affected employees to park outside the downtown core by offering free parking in the nearby Kirkland library parking garage. If you'd like more information about Park Smart or downtown parking in general, please contact Tami White, the City's parking coordinator at 425-587-3871 or twhite@ci.kirkland.wa.us.



Your resource for events, shopping, arts, dining and more....

Annexation? Let's Talk!

In the fall of 2006, the Kirkland City Council concluded its listening tour with local groups and citizens in Kirkland on the issue of annexing the Kingsgate, Juanita, and Finn Hill neighborhoods (collectively known as the potential annexation area, or PAA). Annexation has been discussed for years but recent state legislation has provided funding incentives to annex unincorporated urban areas like the PAA.

Currently, the Council is engaged in Phase 1 of a four-phase approach to studying annexation. The Council developed this careful, deliberate process to help them discern whether annexing this area is right for the City of Kirkland. Phase 1 consisted of two main components: (1) a public outreach effort to explore current City of Kirkland residents' concerns and questions about annexation, and (2) a long-range financial analysis.

As the length of the (still growing) "Community Meeting Listening Log" attests, Phase 1 revealed a broad range of public questions and concerns for the Council to consider when contemplating annexation. The most common themes from the Kirkland community concerned financial risks for the city and taxpayers,

land use and zoning impacts, maintaining quality services, and changing the small town feel of Kirkland. Because Kirkland residents do not have a vote on this issue, the City Council wants to clearly understand and respect the Kirkland community's concerns and questions in their decision-making.

At the end of Phase 1, after considering community concerns about annexation and the ongoing financial implications, the Council will decide whether to proceed to the next phase of decision-making. If the Council decides to initiate Phase 2, the City will continue outreach in Kirkland, expand community outreach efforts to include residents and businesses in the PAA, and continue to study whether annexation is financially and technically feasible. The decision to go to Phase 2 will take place sometime in 2007.

For more information on annexation and to read the Community Meeting Listening Log, go to the City of Kirkland's annexation website at: www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/annexation. If you would like to receive information via e-mail, go to the list server section on the city website at: <http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/E-Bulletins.htm>.

New Special Projects Coordinator

The City of Kirkland City Manager's Office welcomes Julie Reynolds as the new Special Projects Coordinator in charge of the City's Volunteer Program. Julie came to the Northwest to get her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Washington in 1995. She has been with the City for 5 years working in the Police Department, and is very excited about this new opportunity. Julie is very impressed with the spirit of volunteerism that Kirkland's citizens have, and is dedicated to offering opportunities for those who want to get involved. Check out those opportunities on the city website (www.ci.kirkland.wa.us) under "community".



Volunteer as a Long-Term Care Ombudsman

The King County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program in partnership with the City of Kirkland is recruiting volunteers to become certified ombudsman. We recognize that moving into a long-term care facility (nursing home, boarding home or adult family home) can be difficult for many adults. Residents give up familiar surroundings and often lose their sense of individuality. Volunteer Ombudsman advocate, educate and communi-

cate on behalf of these residents. Currently there is one nursing home, five assisted living facilities and upwards of sixty adult family homes in the Kirkland area. If you interested in volunteering four hours per week to help your neighbors receive the best care in a long-term care setting please contact - Mary Fogh, Volunteer Coordinator, King County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, 206-694-6703 or visit www.ltcop.org.



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www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

CITY COUNCIL MAYOR

JAMES L. LAUNGER

DEPUTY MAYOR

JOAN MCBRIDE

COUNCILMEMBERS

DAVE ASHER • JESSICA GREENWAY

MARY-ALYCE BURLEIGH

TOM HODGSON • BOB STERNOFF

EVENTS & MEETINGS

JANUARY 2007

Polar Bear Club Swim

January 1st, 2007 Noon

Marina Park

City Council Meeting

January 2nd, 7:30 pm

City Hall

www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

Central Houghton Neighborhood Association

January 3rd, 7:00 pm

Houghton Fire Station

WEB: www.houghtonlives.com

South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails Neigh. Asso.

January 9th, 7:00 pm

Lake Washington Methodist Church

WEB: www.rosetrails.org

Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods

January 10th, 7:00 pm

Heritage Hall

Lakeview Neighborhood Association

January 15th, 7:00pm

Houghton Fire Station, 6602 108th Ave. N.E.

WEB: www.lakeviewkirkland.com

Juanita Neighborhoods

January 15th, 7:00 pm

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall

WEB: www.NJNA.org

Moss Bay Neighborhood Association

January 15th, 7:00 pm

Heritage Hall

WEB: www.mossbay.org

North Rose Hill Neighborhood Association

January 15th, 7:00 pm

Fire Station 26

WEB: www.north-rosehill.org

City Council Meeting

January 16th, 7:30 pm

City Hall

www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

Market Neighborhood Association

January 17th, 7:00 pm

Heritage Hall

Totem Lake Neighborhood Association

January 17th, 7:00 pm

Evergreen Hospital: Comm. Edu. Building (Tan 138)

WEB: www.totemlakeneighborhood.org

Highlands Neighborhood Association

January 18th, 7:00 pm

Maintenance Center

WEB: www.KirklandHighlands.org

Everest Neighborhood Association

January 23rd, 7:00 pm

Houghton Fire Station

City Council/Central Houghton Neigh. Meeting

February 7th, 7:00 pm

Houghton Fire Station

WEB: www.houghtonlives.com

Norkirk Neighborhood Association

February 7th, 7:00 pm

Heritage Hall

WEB: www.Norkirk.org

Kirkland Residents:

Did You Know?



Pizza boxes can be recycled in your gray yardwaste cart!



For complete info, visit www.wmnorthwest.com/kirkland